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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-9 (cancelled)

- Claim 10 (currently amended): A photosensitive element comprising:
- a) a backing layer
 - b) at least one layer of ~~photopolymerizable material~~ a photocurable composition on said backing layer;
 - c) at least one ablation layer which is ablatale by infrared laser radiation and is substantially opaque to non-infrared actinic ultra violet radiation, wherein the infrared ablation layer is in direct contact with the at least one photopolymerizable photocurable layer and has a surface opposite the photopolymerizable photocurable layer capable of being exposed to laser ablation, the infrared ablation layer comprising:
 - i) at least one ultraviolet radiation absorbing material; and
 - ii) at least one binder that is selected from the group consisting of polyacetals, polyacrylics, polyamides, polyimides, polybutylenes, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyethylenes, polyphenylene ethers and polyethylene oxides;wherein the ablation layer is ablatale from the surface of the photopolymerizable photocurable layer upon exposure infrared to laser radiation, wherein the photocurable layer is curable by contact with ultraviolet radiation and wherein the ablatale layer is ablatale by contact with laser radiation without damage to the photocurable layer.
- Claim 11 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein said backing layer is transparent.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The element of claim 10 wherein said ~~layer of photopolymerizable material~~ photocurable composition comprises a photopolymer

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selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes, acrylonitrile rubbers, and diblock and triblock copolymers made from styrene-isoprene and styrene-butadiene.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The element of claim 12 wherein said polyurethane is selected from the group consisting of acid-modified acrylate polyurethanes and amine-modified acrylate polyurethanes.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The element of claim 10 wherein said ultraviolet radiation absorbing material absorbs ~~infrared~~ laser radiation having a wavelength of 10.6 μm .

Claims 15-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein the ultraviolet radiation absorbing material constitutes about 1-20 weight parts per hundred of said ablation layer.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein the ultraviolet radiation absorbing material is selected from the group consisting of benzophenone derivatives and strongly absorbing dyes.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The element of claim 10 wherein said laser is a CO₂ laser that emits at a wavelength of 10.6 μm .

Claim 21 (new): The element of claim 10 wherein the ablation layer absorbs at least 97% of the ultraviolet radiation in the spectral range used to photocure the photocurable layer.

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